8. Public awareness programmes regarding problems, prevention, education and rehabilitation of handicapped are highlighted through the mass media like TV and Radio etc.

9. The Ministry does not have any scheme for providing Braille presses which can be set up in various States by the State Governments.

10. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a comprehensive survey regarding prevalence of disability during 1981 in which the blind population in the country was also assessed. The Organisation has been asked to conduct another survey in 1991.

11. Ministry of Welfare have set up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres on pilot basis to provide comprehensive services for the disabled including the blind in rural areas. During the year 1990-91 a new scheme is proposed to be started under which assistance shall be given to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of the handicapped including the blind in rural areas to expand their activities in the area of early detection, intervention, educational and therapeutical services. A number of organisations like the National Association for the Blind, the Blind Men's Association, Ahmedabad, etc. are carrying on rehabilitation programmes for the rural blind in different States. Some of these programmes are also being assisted by the Ministry of Welfare through its grant-in-aid scheme to voluntary organisations. These organisations are also receiving assistance from other sources.

Grant for the Development of Madras City

*273. SHRI T. R. BALU : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu have requested the Central Government for a grant for the development of Madras city in commemoration of its 300 years; and

(b) if so, the amount granted for the said purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request of this nature was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1987. This request was examined and the State Government were advised to include the development schemes for the Corporation of Madras in their Eighth Five Year Plan proposals. The State Government have, however, again renewed their request on 15-3-1990.

Amendment of the working Journalists' Act

*274. SHRIMATH VEENA VERMA KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Working Journalists' Act to ensure the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations and if so, what are the main proposals for amendment; and

(b) whether Government are considering any penal provisions also ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b). There are no proposals presently under consideration to amend the Act.

Involvement of Public and the private sectors for New Employment opportunities for Youth

*275. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to involve both the public sector and the private sector in programmes for

opening up new employment opportunities for the youth; and

(b) if so, the outline and the salient features of the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) In the 8th Five-Year Plan which is yet to be finalised, a major thrust is intended on expansion of productive employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy.

Closure of fertilizer units for want of raw materials

*276. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several fertilizer plants have been closed and some are on the verge of closure for want of raw materials; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for the smooth running of the fertilizer units ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) Several fertilizer plants have been closed for want of raw materials.

(b) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC) has been authorised to import phosphoric acid and ammonia for the fertilizer industry for the period April-September, 1990. Contracts for 50,000 tonnes of ammonia for prompt shipment have been finalised. Discussions have been initiated with the USSR for import under the Trade Plan.

Quotations for the purchase of phosphoric acid have been received by MMTC and commercial negotiations are in progress. Shipments would commence as soon as the contracts have been concluded.

Setting up of Statutory Board for water Supply and Sewage disposal in Delhi

*277. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an autonomous Statutory Board for water supply and sewage disposal in Delhi;

(b) if so, by when the said Board is likely to be set up; and

(c) what specific measures Government propose to take so that the Board would meet the requirements of the expanding Metropolis ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Committee on the Reorganisation of Delhi set up has in its Report recommended the constitution of an autonomous body in place in Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking. The recommendation of the Committee is being examined by the Government and it is not possible to indicate a time frame within which decision may be taken.

Both long term and short term measures have been taken to increase and augment water supply in Delhi to meet the future requirements of the Capital City.

अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियो के छात्रों को दी जाने वाली छात्रवृत्ति और शिष्यवृत्ति

*278. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के छात्रों को दी जाने वाली छात्रवृत्ति और शिष्यवृति